

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sucking a function liquid droplet ejection head in which a cap is brought into close contact with the function liquid droplet ejection head having a plurality of nozzles, said head ejecting a functional which ejects a function liquid, said sucking being made through the cap, said apparatus comprising:

an ejector which sucks all of said nozzles of the function liquid droplet ejection head in a state of being in fluid-flow communication with the cap; and
working fluid supply means for supplying the ejector with a working fluid.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the ejector is interposed near the cap.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:
pressure detection means for detecting a pressure in a suction pipeline connecting the cap to a suction port of the ejector;

a flow rate regulating valve for regulating a flow rate of the working fluid supplied to the ejector, said valve being interposed in a working fluid supply pipeline connecting the working fluid supply means to a supply port of the ejector; and

first control means for controlling the flow rate regulating valve based on a detection result obtained by the pressure detection means.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first control means gradually closes the flow rate regulating valve when suction of the function liquid droplet ejection head is finished.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:
a suction pipeline gate valve which is interposed in the suction pipeline and which opens/closes the suction pipeline,
wherein the first control means closes the flow rate regulating valve and the suction pipeline gate valve when the suction of the function liquid droplet ejection head is finished.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein the suction pipeline gate valve is made of a three-way valve having an atmosphere releasing port, and
wherein the first control means opens the atmosphere releasing port simultaneously with closing of the suction pipeline gate valve and opens the flow rate regulating valve again.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a storage tank which stores a function liquid in advance and is connected to a discharge port of the ejector by a discharge pipeline,

wherein the working fluid supply means is made up of a pump and is connected to the storage tank through a circulating pipeline to supply the function liquid as a working fluid.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein a circulating pipeline gate valve made up of a three-way valve having an atmosphere releasing port is interposed in the circulating pipeline connecting the working fluid supply means to the storage tank, and

wherein the ~~suction~~ apparatus further comprises second control means for closing the circulating pipeline gate valve and opening the atmosphere releasing port of the circulating pipeline gate valve when suction of the function liquid droplet ejection head is finished.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a plurality of function liquid droplet ejection heads are provided, and a plurality of caps, ejectors and suction pipelines are provided, respectively, in accordance with the plurality of function liquid droplet ejection heads.

13. (Currently Amended) A liquid droplet ejection apparatus, comprising:

the a suction apparatus for a function liquid droplet ejection head in which a cap is brought into close contact with the function liquid droplet ejection head which

ejects a function liquid and suction provided through the cap, said suction apparatus comprising; according to claim 4; and

an ejector that sucks all nozzles of the function liquid droplet ejection head in a state of being in fluid-flow communication with the cap; and
working fluid supply means for supplying the ejector with a working fluid;

wherein function liquid droplet ejection heads eject [ejecting] a function liquid onto a workpiece.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an electrooptic device using the liquid droplet ejection apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein a film formation part is formed on a workpiece by a function liquid, using the liquid droplet ejection apparatus according to claim 13.

15. (Currently Amended) An electrooptic device manufactured using the liquid droplet ejection apparatus of Claim 13, wherein a film formation part is formed on [[a]] the workpiece by [[a]] the function liquid, using the liquid droplet ejection apparatus according to claim 13.

16. (Currently Amended) The electrooptic device of Claim 15, wherein the electrooptic device is mounted to an An electronic equipment, wherein the electrooptic device according to claim 15 is mounted.